

# **Bible Reference Codes System**

**M. David Johnson**

## Bible Reference Codes System

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*“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (II Timothy 2:15, ESV).*

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### Doctrinal Position

I hold to traditional Reformed Theology as often expressed by the acronym TULIP:

**T = Total Depravity**  
**U = Unconditional Election**  
**L = Limited Atonement**  
**I = Irresistible Grace**  
**P = Perseverance of the Saints**

I also hold to the verbal plenary inspiration of the Bible, and affirm its authority, sufficiency, and inerrancy in the original autographs.

Sola Scriptura – Sola Fide – Sola Gratia – Solus Christus – Soli Deo Gloria

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## Bible Reference Codes System

In my own personal library, I currently have thirteen notebooks full of sermon notes, a twenty-one volume set of John MacArthur's sermons, a sixteen volume set of W. Herschel Ford's sermons, Spurgeon's *Expository Encyclopedia*, Wiersbe's *Classic Sermons*, Morgan's *Westminster Pulpit*, and numerous other sermon and other collections.

I also receive and archive daily micro-commentary emails from the Institute of Creation Research, as well as occasional missives from other sources.

Several years ago, I graduated into the electronic age with the Logos, PC Bible, and BibleWorks systems, but I still need to be able to catalog and retrieve all of this "legacy" information which is stored in paper form (i.e. books) and in flat files (i.e. Microsoft Word files).

If you have similar needs, you might benefit from the Bible Reference Codes System I developed to ease searching a collection by Bible Reference. For example, suppose you have a collection of ten articles sorted by title:

<b>Title A</b>	<b>II Corinthians 6:14</b>
<b>Title B</b>	<b>Joshua 4:13</b>
<b>Title C</b>	<b>Matthew 24:49</b>
<b>Title D</b>	<b>Proverbs 10:29</b>
<b>Title E</b>	<b>II Samuel 20:19</b>
<b>Title F</b>	<b>Lamentations 5:20</b>
<b>Title G</b>	<b>Hosea 2:23</b>
<b>Title H</b>	<b>Romans 3:22</b>
<b>Title I</b>	<b>I Corinthians 14:7</b>
<b>Title J</b>	<b>I Samuel 10:1</b>

If the articles are listed in a database or even in just a simple text processor, sorting them by title is straightforward, and you can then just quickly go down the alphabetized list to find the one you want. And, if you store the complete articles in separate files, with the file name equal to the article title, your operating system should *automatically* store the files in alphabetical order.

But, now look at what happens if you reorganize and re-sort the list in Bible reference order:

<b>Hosea 2:23</b>	<b>Title G</b>
<b>I Corinthians 14:7</b>	<b>Title I</b>
<b>I Samuel 10:1</b>	<b>Title J</b>
<b>II Corinthians 6:14</b>	<b>Title A</b>
<b>II Samuel 20:19</b>	<b>Title E</b>
<b>Joshua 4:13</b>	<b>Title B</b>
<b>Lamentations 5:20</b>	<b>Title F</b>
<b>Matthew 24:49</b>	<b>Title C</b>
<b>Proverbs 10:29</b>	<b>Title D</b>
<b>Romans 3:22</b>	<b>Title H</b>

To find an article on a particular Bible Reference, we would prefer to have the list in Bible Reference order (i.e. Genesis first, Exodus second, etc.) rather than in strict alphabetical order.

Suppose that, instead of the actual Bible Reference, we substitute a Bible Reference Code which is both human and computer friendly:

<b>Title A</b>	<b>B47-2Co006014</b>
<b>Title B</b>	<b>B06-Jos004013</b>
<b>Title C</b>	<b>B40-Mat024049</b>
<b>Title D</b>	<b>B20-Pro010029</b>
<b>Title E</b>	<b>B10-2Sa020019</b>
<b>Title F</b>	<b>B25-Lam005020</b>
<b>Title G</b>	<b>B28-Hos002023</b>
<b>Title H</b>	<b>B45-Rom003022</b>
<b>Title I</b>	<b>B46-1Co014007</b>
<b>Title J</b>	<b>B09-1Sa010001</b>

The code is made up of four fields. Looking, for example, at the first code above:

**B47-2Co006014**

**B47-** is the first field.

**2Co** is the second field.

**006** is the third field.

**014** is the fourth field.

The first field is made up of four characters, B (for “Bible”), a two-character book number code (01 for Genesis, 02 for Exodus, etc.) and a dash.

The second field is the common three character abbreviation of the Bible book name (Gen for Genesis, Exo for Exodus, etc.).

Together, the first and second fields make up the Code Prefix.

The third field is a three digit Chapter Number with leading zeroes (i.e. 001 for Chapter 1, 033 for Chapter 33, etc.). For books like Obadiah and Jude, which have no chapter divisions, the Code uses 001 for the Chapter Number.

The fourth field is is a three digit Verse Number with leading zeroes.

Together, the third and fourth fields make up the Code Suffix.

With this coding, reorganizing and alphabetically sorting the list in Bible Reference Code order now produces:

B06-Jos004013	Title B
B09-1Sa010001	Title J
B10-2Sa020019	Title E
B20-Pro010029	Title D
B25-Lam005020	Title F
B28-Hos002023	Title G
B40-Mat024049	Title C
B45-Rom003022	Title H
B46-1Co014007	Title I
B47-2Co006014	Title A

You can now quickly go down the list to find the Bible reference you're looking for.

My list of Bible Reference Code Prefixes is:

B01-Gen  
 B02-Exo  
 B03-Lev  
 B04-Num  
 B05-Deu  
 B06-Jos  
 B07-Jdg  
 B08-Rut  
 B09-1Sa  
 B10-2Sa  
 B11-1Ki  
 B12-2Ki  
 B13-1Ch  
 B14-2Ch  
 B15-Ezr  
 B16-Neh  
 B17-Est  
 B18-Job  
 B19-Psa  
 B20-Pro  
 B21-Ecc  
 B22-Son  
 B23-Isa  
 B24-Jer  
 B25-Lam  
 B26-Eze  
 B27-Dan  
 B28-Hos  
 B29-Joe  
 B30-Amo  
 B31-Oba  
 B32-Jon

B33-Mic  
B34-Nah  
B35-Hab  
B36-Zep  
B37-Hag  
B38-Zec  
B39-Mal  
B40-Mat  
B41-Mar  
B42-Luk  
B43-Joh  
B44-Act  
B45-Rom  
B46-1Co  
B47-2Co  
B48-Gal  
B49-Eph  
B50-Phi  
B51-Col  
B52-1Th  
B53-2Th  
B54-1Ti  
B55-2Ti  
B56-Tit  
B57-Phm  
B58-Heb  
B59-Jam  
B60-1Pe  
B61-2Pe  
B62-1Jo  
B63-2Jo  
B64-3Jo  
B65-Jud  
B66-Rev

May God bless you in your continued studies of His Word.